

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 were pending. By this amendment, claims 7-13, 20-22 are cancelled and claims 23 and 24 are added.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 14-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dawson, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/02349453, in view of Nara, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0017620. Claims 4-5, 9-13, 17-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dawson, in view of Nara as applied to claims 1-3, 6-8, 14-16 and 19, and further in view of Tamura, U.S. Patent No. 7,027,427. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claims have been amended to clarify the invention. According to amended claim 1, a memory unit stores shared folder management table containing information about shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses, and it is updated based on the result of searching of said folders. The updated states of information processing apparatuses are displayed on the display unit. Dawson fails to teach or suggest these features.

Dawson teaches searching a database. In Dawson, image data is searched, but Dawson does not teach searching shared folders. The other cited references also fail to teach or suggest the claimed features. Thus, for at least this reason, the pending independent claims (claims 1 and 14) are allowable over the cited art. The dependent claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants therefore request that all rejections be withdrawn.

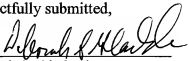
In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772035900.

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